

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News



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JULY 1988



State Librarian, Sara Parker, will be resigning her position at the State Library as of July 29. Parker is shown here with Montana State Senator, Gary Aklestad, during the 1987 legislative session.

JUNE COMMISSION AGENDA ACTIVE

After lengthy discussion, the State Library Commission voted at a June 22 meeting in Helena to oppose a proposed fee for users of university libraries. A close three-to-two vote reflected the conflict between the Commission's concern for the university libraries' funding difficulties and the commitment to its goal of keeping open access to libraries. The Board of Regents will decide whether to institute fees for general users and for students at a July 25 & 26 meeting in Great Falls.

The commissioners' discussion of their concerns about this issue was preceded by

a very active agenda including the acceptance of State Librarian Sara Parker's resignation. (See story on this page) a report on Montana Library Association's plans for library legislative activities and approval of all the federations' plans of service.

Lewis & Clark Director, Debbie Schlesinger, reported on Montana Library Association's strategies for the next legislative session. Legislative days are planned in Yellowstone County to coincide with Library Awareness week September 12 through 17. Schlesinger stressed the importance of strengthening friends of libraries groups to promote the legislative effort.

(See Comm. pg. 4)

STATE LIBRARIAN RESIGNS

The Montana State Library Commission "accepted with regret" the resignation of State Librarian, Sara Parker at a June 22 commission meeting in Helena. Parker, whose resignation will be effective on July 29, will become the new Pennsylvania State Librarian on August 15. The size of her staff will increase from 38 in Montana to over 100 in Pennsylvania.

Parker has directed the Montana State Library since 1982. She was an instrumental force in implementing the Natural Resource Information System, which links information on natural resources in public and private Montana concerns. She also helped make Montana part of a four-state \$5,000,000 Kellogg-funded project to deliver information to rural communities.

Debbie Schlesinger, director of the Lewis & Clark Public Library in Helena, has been asked by the State Library Commission to serve as acting State Librarian from the time Parker leaves until a new permanent person is hired. Pending final approval from the State Personnel Office, Schlesinger will take the position. The Commission is organizing a committee to conduct a nationwide search for a new permanent state librarian.

There will be a reception for

(See Resign pg. 3)



GEORGIA Lomax presents Sue Nissen the first annual Top Shelf Award at the Montana Library Association conference in Helena in April. The award for outstanding contributions to library service in Montana, was given to Nissen for her work with Friends of Montana Libraries.

MONTANA LIBRARIES RECEIVE LITERACY GRANTS

Five Montana Libraries will receive a series of Library and Construction Act grants through the federal Department of Education totalling over \$120,000 to further literacy efforts in the state. The recipient libraries are Sidney Public Library, Flathead County Library in Kalispell, Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton, the Polson City Library and the Montana State Library in Helena.

Each library will focus on programs matching tutors with persons wishing to learn to read. Beyond this shared emphasis, each library's plan for its grant is unique in some way.

The Sidney Public Library will attempt to heighten public awareness of the illiteracy problem and of their literacy programs.

The Polson City Library plans to use their grant for outreach work of Lake County instead of limiting the program to the Polson area.

The Flathead County Library

will expand their efforts to provide specialized help for the institutionalized, the elderly and the handicapped.

Bitterroot Public Library will also expand their program to include service for persons for whom English is a second language.

Montana State Library plans to use their grant to purchase materials for the federations to use to supplement their existing literacy resources. They will also publish a newsletter which will help to coordinate literacy efforts in the state and will supply information about how to start literacy programs.

The grants will help to sustain and supplement programs begun in 1981 with the Volunteers for Adult Literacy Project.



yes.
yes.
yes.
know.
know.
know.

Say yes and know.
Get a library card.

THE LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

According to figures reported by public libraries in the state, about 350,000 Montanans are registered to borrow books at their local libraries. The rest of the state's citizens are part of the target audience of a national campaign which designates September as "Library Card Sign-up Month."

The campaign, sponsored by the American Library Association and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, will feature support from Sears and McDonald's.

Sears will include public service messages about libraries in its "Back-to-School" catalog. Estimated readership of the catalog is half of all households in the United States.

McDonald's will distribute about 25 million "Happy Meals" with messages promoting library card sign-up for three weeks starting October 27. 95% of the 10,000 restaurants are expected to participate.

Libraries interested in an update on the library card sign-up campaign and ideas for participating, may contact Sallie Fenning at the State Library, 1515 E. 6th, Helena, 59620, 444-5353.

GRANTS FOR CENTENNIAL PROJECTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Libraries interested in applying for grants for centennial projects must apply for licensing from the Centennial Office. The Centennial Office has issued a draft of grant-making rules and will accept public comment on the rules through August 22.

The proposed rules will be used to direct earnings and royalties from Centennial projects such as license plates, Centennial acres, and the various Centennial products to Centennial endeavors requiring financial assistance.

Grant applications will be available after the rules are approved. Once the rules have been approved only licensed affiliates and projects will be eligible for the grants. The Montana Statehood Centennial Office's address is P.O. Box 1959, Capitol Station, Helena, 59620.



"DOCUMENTS WEST" A CENTENNIAL EVENT

"Documents West," is a cooperative effort among the six northwestern states celebrating their centennials in 1989 and 1990. The travelling exhibit documents America's westward growth. It includes the Louisiana Purchase agreement and the 1803 agreement with France that deeded the territory extending west from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.

Also included in the exhibit will be Indian treaties and documents related to the Lewis

and Clark expedition. Some of the documents in the exhibit have never before travelled west of the Mississippi.

The plan is for "Documents West" to travel to all six centennial states: Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Washington and Idaho.

SURVEY COMPARES USERS & NON-USERS

43 percent of library non-users said that nothing the library could do would attract them, according to a telephone survey conducted by the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore.

The non-users' reason for avoiding their local libraries include lack of time, inconvenient location, and no interest in reading.

Non-users had a median age of 42, with eight percent being college graduates. Their median income is \$23,100.

Users had a median age of 38, with 21 percent having college degrees and a median income of \$35,800.

RIDGWAY ACTING LBPH DIRECTOR

Barbara Ridgway has been named acting director of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the State Library in Helena. Darleen Tiensvold retired from the position in February and a search for a new director is ongoing.

Ridgway is a school librarian with the Helena school district and also works part time at the Shodair Children's Hospital Library. She will be acting director of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped through the summer.

(Resign cont. from pg. 1)

Sara Parker on July 28 from 2:30 to 4:30 at Governor Ted Schwinden's home at 2 Carson Street in Helena.

All of Sara's friends as well as librarians, library staff, trustees, and friends of libraries are invited to attend.

The party will continue after 4:30 at a location which has yet to be decided. Interested persons should call the State Library, 444-5353.



Many friends and supporters of the Laurel Public Library attended ground breaking ceremonies on June 4 for a new library building. Former State Representative, Mel Williams, was the master of ceremonies. Peggy Arnold, Laurel librarian, reported on July 6 that the walls and roof are now up and workers are putting on shingles. The projected completion date is October 29.



UPON A BOOK
CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK



SUENA EN UN LIBRO
BOOK WEEK NOVEMBER 14-20, 1988

(Comm. cont. from pg. 1)

Sheila Cates presented federation plans of service to the commission for approval. Plans include five of the six federations participating in the interlibrary loan back-up service provided by Lewis & Clark Library.

Other plans among the federations include helping to build collections in libraries, provision of WLN resource directories for many libraries, continuation of the toll-free reference assistance number and a variety of continuing education opportunities. The State Library Commission will meet on August 22 at the Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton. The meeting is open to the public.

GLASGOW HAS NEW DIRECTOR

Glasgow City County Library will have a new director as of August first. Jim Johndrow, now employed at a branch library in Petersburg, Virginia, will take over for Jenny Reinhardt, acting director. The 32-year-old Johndrow is from Michigan.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK IN NOVEMBER

"Wish Upon a Book" is the theme for the sixty-ninth annual National Children's Book Week, November 14 - 20. A variety of materials, including posters, banners and bookmarks, promoting this theme are available. An illustrated Book Week materials brochure with price and discount information can be ordered by sending a SASE to Children's Book Council, 67 Irving Place, New York, N.Y. 10003.

CONSUMER INFORMATION CATALOG AVAILABLE

The Consumer Information Center publishes a free catalog four times a year which contains listings for more than 200 available federal publications.

Resources on nutrition, money management, health and federal benefits and many other subjects are listed in the catalog. It may be ordered by writing to: Consumer Information Center, Department AP, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

EDITOR

The Montana Library Association is looking for an editor for its newsletter, *Focus*. Interested parties should contact Georgia Lomax at the Flathead Community Library, 247 First Ave. E., Kalispel, MT, 59901, 756-5690.

Montana State Library Commission

Mary Hudepeth, Chair

C. L. Anderson, Vice Chair

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Nancy Anderson, Vice

Virginia Brown, Vice

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MARIE B. DREW

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